

1976



The Osprey -a powerful, versatile new air rifle from Webley

For years, serious shooters have regarded the Webley Mk III as the finest British air rifle money could buy; the standard by which other rifles should be judged.

Most manufacturers would have been satisfied with that. But not Webley & Scott. True to tradition, they've been working on a completely new model, offering greater and more consistent muzzle velocity, plus a catalogue of practical new features — including easier side-lever cocking.

Now it's here. The magnificent Osprey, in a choice of calibres, .177 and .22. And — amazingly — it is in the same price range as the famous Mk III. *For top-class championship shooting the De Luxe Supertarget .177 with 6 hole aperture sights completes the adaptability of this fine air rifle.*

The features listed here will whet your appetite. But for full appreciation of the Osprey's superiority, you really must handle one.

Call and see your Webley dealer. He's the one with the enthusiastic smile on his face.

- ☐ Outstandingly powerful and accurate. Ideal for competitions or vermin control.
- ☐ Easy side-lever cocking, with safety ratchet and interlock (patent pending).
- ☐ Improved front and rear sights. Improved stock with cheekpiece and rubber shoulder pad.
- ☐ Webley's piston seals give greater velocity, consistent over the life of the gun.
- ☐ Finely adjustable trigger pull.
- ☐ Safety catch.

Price with open sights
£46.34 inc. VAT
Price with aperture target
sights front and rear
£75.38 inc. VAT

The Osprey is only one of the superb, value-for-money air rifles in the Webley range. There are air pistols too, and all the accessories you need for enjoyable shooting.

**SEE THEM ALL ON
OUR STAND IN
GUNMAKERS ROW.**

Webley Osprey

Just handle it and you'll recognise perfection.

Old skills—new ideas—great guns



Member of the Shooting Sports Trust

See your Dealer (or write to us enclosing a 10p stamp for illustrated literature)

WEBLEY & SCOTT LIMITED

(Dept. B 31/1) Park Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8LU.

TIME TO STAND AND STARE

A RECENT SPATE of queries on various unknown modern air rifles and pistols caused me to pause a bit and look around. Trying to deal with both vintage and modern air rifles and air pistols in my articles and not being in the gun trade, I was amazed to see how many new and unknown items had appeared and passed by unseen. If one of each available came my way each week—one per month is as much as I can cope with—it would take around two years to be up-to-date. By which time new introductions and manufacturers' changes would make a lot obsolete anyway!

I decided, therefore, to attempt a quick review of the items currently available, the results of which appear herewith. I hope it will prove useful and of interest. I suspect most readers will find items new to them. Not all the items currently available are listed, some of the cheaper items proving utterly elusive; further, odd importations of old items occur from time to time. I have, too, kept to spring rifles and pistols and excluded any which require a Firearms Certificate. Even so, the wide range when gathered together will probably surprise readers as much as it did me! The division of the lists into sections and any comments given are naturally my personal decision or opinion. Lack of comment carries no implication but merely indicates that the particular item concerned has not been seen or used by myself. Three important qualifications are necessary. Firstly, the data given and the illustrations are believed to be those currently applicable but, with the manufacturers of the better quality items frequently making improvements, these are not guaranteed in any way. Secondly, and very important, prices given are indicative only to show the sort of range into which any particular air rifle or air pistol falls, and to some extent to indicate quality. With daily-changing exchange rates, competition between dealers, etc., the actual selling price of any item can differ a lot from the prices herein, upwards as well as downwards. Thirdly, weights and dimensions will not be exactly correct, stocks can vary in weight slightly and dimensions also may vary fractionally. This applies, of course, to the cheaper air rifles in particular.

You may wish to obtain further data on some particular model or range listed, if so, approach your local dealer first or look for an advertisement offering the item or range and send for details. If you cannot obtain the required information that way, the final recourse is to apply to the importer, and a list is given below for that purpose. I must, however, point out that literature costs money, as does the postage and time taken dealing with enquiries. I advise when asking any importer for details to send a postal order for 20p to partly meet their costs; some may in fact require a greater sum, if so that will be indicated in their advertisements. If you just send a letter and get no reply you really cannot complain in these high-cost times.

A list of importers is fraught with difficulties and problems. Agencies change hands not infrequently, makers import sometimes through several firms, sometimes one firm is the factory importer and another imports from wholesalers or overseas agencies. Nonetheless, I stick my neck out and give the list which I know readers will want. I can only apologise to any importer or firm who feels he ought to have been included, as I do to anyone whose air rifle or air pistol is not included, and say no discredit or discourtesy is intended. So, please, no abusive letters!

List of manufacturers and importers

Make of air rifle/pistol or name used on British market	Country of origin	Firm (in alphabetical order)
1. Center pistol	Spain	Messrs. A.S.I., Alliance House, Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk
2. Commando, Paratrooper and Sniper rifles	Spain	
3. EmGe pistol	Germany	
4. Feinwerkbau rifles and pistols	Germany	
1. Airsporter, Mercury and Meteor rifles	Britain	Manufacturer: BSA Guns Ltd., Birmingham, B11 2PX
2. Scorpion pistol	Britain	
1. Anschütz rifles	Germany	Frank Dyke & Co. Ltd., 1-7 Ernest Ave., West Norwood, London, SE27 0DG
2. Original rifles and pistols	Germany	
1. Slavia rifles	Czechoslovakia	Edgar Brothers, Vale Rd., and East St., Woolton, Liverpool, L25 7RZ
2. Tex pistol	Czechoslovakia	
3. Weihrauch rifles and pistol	Germany	
1. Phantom rifle	Spain	Gunmark Ltd., Gunmark House, Swanmore, Hants.
2. Zip pistol	Italy	
1. S.I.G. Hammerli rifles	Switzerland	Norman May & Co., Union House, Princess Ter., Bridlington, North Humberside, YO15 2RD
2. Weihrauch rifles and pistol (indirect)	Germany	
1. Diana rifles and pistols	Britain	Manufacturer (1) Importer (2): Milbro Sports Ltd., P.O. Box 24, Motherwell, Lanarkshire, ML1 4UP
2. Walther rifles and pistols	Germany	
1. Comet rifle	Spain	Parker-Hale Ltd., Golden Hillock Rd., Birmingham, B11 2PZ
2. Haenel rifles	Germany	
1. BSF rifles and pistols (also known as Bavaria and Wischo)	Germany	Salter & Varge Ltd., Empire House, St. Martins-Le-Grand, London, EC1A 4AD
1. Lucznik Predom rifle and pistol	Poland	Viking Arms Ltd., Bewerley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 5JA
1. Jaguar, Hawk and Osprey rifles	Britain	Manufacturer: Webley & Scott Ltd., Park Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 8LU
2. Junior and Premier pistols	Britain	
1. Panther pistol (RO72)	Italy	The Sussex Armoury, 34 North St., Hailsham, Sussex, BN27 1BR.

Whereas the British led, and still lead, the shotgun world, in the world of air rifles the Germans took the lead after the war and still hold it, as will be seen at the top end of the range of air rifles and air pistols. The quality of the many German products is good, as is also that of the Swiss products or the S.I.G. Hammerli combination. The British products certainly match the quality of comparable-price German products, in some cases excelling and representing top value-for-money, and British presentation of the product complete with target holder, targets, etc., is first class. The Spanish products gain from the Spanish shotgun trade and experience and are quite good quality, some approaching the German and British standards. The products of other countries tend to be in the cheapest range, reasonable quality generally but often with the disadvantage of lack of manual or any spare parts availability. Oddly, in the case of air pistols this does not seem to apply so much; most of the pistols (other than the cheaper non-listed) seem to be quite good. Generalisations and opinion, yes, but based not just on my own limited handling and use of air rifles and air pistols but also that of the many who write to me.

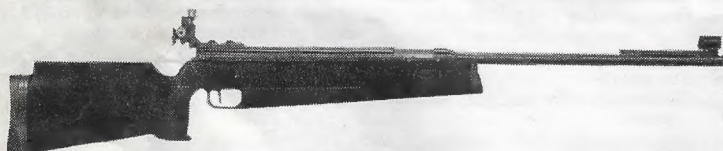
It still remains a fact, however, that if your memory of air rifles is the pre-war pressed steel popgun you will be very surprised with the performance of even the cheapest modern air rifle or air pistol; the recoilless models at the top will utterly amaze. So will your attempts to hit the pimple bull at six yards or 10 metres, so readily referred to as "a piece of cake" by those who have not tried!

SPRING AIR RIFLES AND AIR PISTOLS ON THE BRITISH MARKET EARLY 1976

Section A — Recoilless air rifles

General comment: These rifles are the cream of modern air rifles, all have some system of absorbing the recoil so that when fired the rifle itself does not move or impart any "kick" at all, the performance virtually reflecting the shooter himself alone. Accuracy at six yards or 10 metres is one-hole with all—any slight difference in accuracy capability between makes is negligible. Construction is highest quality and the consistency is permanent for years of use.

All have full match sights, the foresight being tunnel type with a wide range of interchangeable elements; the rearsight is aperture with fine micro-adjustment, and with variable fitting positions. Butt plates can be moved vertically. All have very fine match triggers, adjustable in every conceivable way to fit the shooter, and all have a wide range of accessories available. All are only in .177 calibre, that being the only calibre used in target shooting, and all weigh just on 11 lb., the maximum permitted under international rules. Left-hand stocks are available at extra cost.



Anschutz 250

Action: Side-lever cocking. Recoil absorbed by hydraulic cylinder opposing piston movement. **Length:** 45½ in. **Barrel length:** 18½ in. **Price:** £130-£140.

Comments: Complements the Anschutz range of top Match cartridge rifles. Unique facility of sliding rail to change foresight position. Steel piston ring.



Feinwerkbau 300S

Action: Side-lever cocking. Recoil absorbed by whole barrel plus action moving rearwards approx. ¼ in. on slides in stock. **Length:** 43 in. **Barrel length:** 20 in. **Price:** £150-£160.

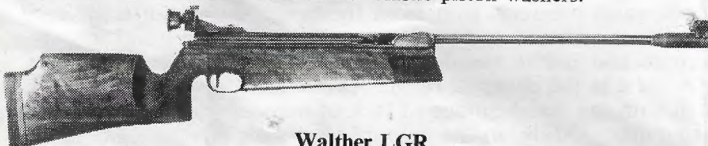
Comments: The simplest anti-recoil action yet superbly efficient. Used by many champions. Also available without barrel sleeve to reduce weight to around 9½ lb. Steel piston ring.



Original 66

Action: Break-barrel with latch. Recoil eliminated by two opposing pistons, linked by cogs, travelling equally in opposite directions. **Length:** 43½ in. **Barrel length:** 17 in. **Price:** £100-£110.

Comments: The bargain value of the recoilless but suffers from unwarranted prejudice against break-barrel action. Unique off-set butt plate for best fit to shooter. Barrel sleeve removable. Plastic piston washers.



Walther LGR

Action: Side-lever cocking. Single-stroke pump-up, storing the compressed air so on firing no moving piston and no recoil. **Length:** 44 in. **Barrel length:** 17½ in. **Price:** £190-£200.

Comments: The newest of this section, of the usual Walther superior quality. Has the advantage of no spring to wear out in time. Plastic piston washer. Special "Running Boar" version available.

All other rifles are recoiling type, with some movement of the rifle or "kick".

Section B — Rifles essentially for target use—all are .177 calibre

General comment: High power is not sought by the target shooter, as, for peculiar aerodynamic reasons little understood, medium power gives the ultimate accuracy sought. The rifles in this section are medium-powered and equipped with match target sights, aimed at the target shooter who has not reached the recoilless level—or doesn't want to spend as much as they cost! The Walther LGV really belongs in a class on its own, but is here purely for convenience. It was long the top air rifle before the recoilless, it is beautifully designed and built, and has almost no recoil although not strictly recoilless. A gun for the connoisseur.



Anschutz 335S

Action: Break-barrel with latch. **Weight:** 7½ lb. **Length:** 43 in. **Barrel length:** 18½ in. **Trigger:** Semi-match adjustable. **Sights:** Interchangeable element foresight with rear micro-adjustable aperture sight, top match quality. **Price:** £65-£75.

Comment: Sound and popular as a lightweight rifle for juniors and beginners. This target version has a different, lighter spring to the sporting version, but both are interchangeable.



Haenel 311

Action: Bolt-cocking with loading tap. **Weight:** 7½ lb. **Length:** 44 in. **Barrel length:** 16½ in. **Trigger:** Semi-match adjustable. **Sights:** Interchangeable element foresight with limited but adequate range of elements, own simplified micro-adjustable aperture rearsight. **Price:** £70-£80.

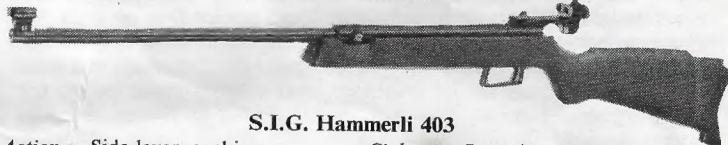
Comment: The unique bolt-action is much liked, but this rifle is not easily found, being imported in small quantities.



Osprey Supertarget

Action: Side-lever cocking. **Weight:** 8½ lb. **Length:** 43½ in. **Barrel length:** 18½ in. **Trigger:** Semi-match adjustable. **Sights:** Top match quality interchangeable element foresight with rear micro-adjustable aperture sight. **Price:** £70-£80.

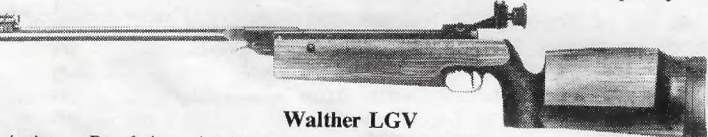
Comments: A British newcomer just appearing—so minor differences might occur from illustration, which is prototype. Target version of the new popular Osprey, which replaced the Mark III.



S.I.G. Hammerli 403

Action: Side-lever cocking. **Weight:** 9½ lb. **Length:** 45 in. **Barrel length:** 19 in. **Trigger:** Semi-match adjustable. **Sights:** Interchangeable element foresight with limited but adequate range of elements, micro-adjustable rear aperture sight. **Price:** £65-£75.

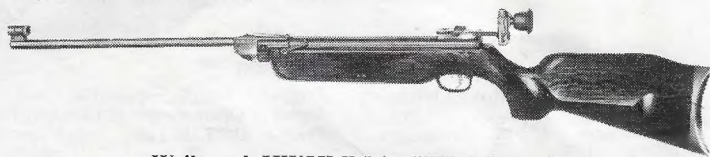
Comments: Latest version of the Hammerli already well established, re-named following joining with the S.I.G. firm. Good Swiss quality.



Walther LGV

Action: Break-barrel with latch. **Weight:** 10½ lb. **Length:** 41½ in. **Barrel length:** 17½ in. **Trigger:** Top quality complex fully-adjustable match type. **Sights:** Top match quality interchangeable element foresight with rear micro-adjustable aperture sight. **Price:** £170-£180.

Comments : See heading to section. Full range of accessories available. Also available with shortened stock and lighter barrel, reduced to 8½ lb. weight, as Junior and Ladies' Model.



Weihrauch HW55MM (or HW55 Target)

Action : Break-barrel with latch. *Sights* : Interchangeable element foresight with limited but adequate range of elements, own simplified micro-adjustable aperture rear-sight.

Weight : 8½ lb. *Length* : 43½ in. *Barrel length* : 18½ in.

Calibre : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Semi-match adjustable.

Price : £100-£110.

Comments : Well-made, adjustable breech latch. New version just appearing on market may differ from illustration and details given above. A comparatively rare rifle.

Section C — Rifles essentially for sporting use

General comment : This section contains rifles which appear to be solely designed for maximum power, plus appearance, aimed at the sporting shooter. All are indeed very powerful, almost up to the legal limit.



BSA Airsporter Mark 6

Action : Underlever cocking. *Weight* : 8½ lb. *Length* : 44½ in. *Barrel length* : 18½ in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Single stage adjustable. *Sights* : Open, rear click stop two-way adjustable.

Price : £35-£40.

Comments : A good, well-liked rifle, already around a long time. This latest Mark 6 has synthetic piston rings for consistent power and accuracy.



BSA Mercury Mark 2

Action : Break-barrel. *Weight* : 7 lb. *Length* : 43½ in. *Barrel length* : 18 in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Single stage adjustable. *Sights* : Open, rear click stop two-way adjustable.

Price : £25-£30.

Comments : The break-barrel version of the Airsporter, with the same piston rings. Very good value for money.



BSF Bavaria 55DL (De Luxe)

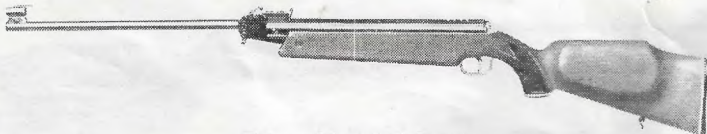
Action : Break-barrel. *Weight* : 6½ lb. *Length* : 41½ in. *Barrel length* : 17 in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Two-stage adjustable. *Sights* : Open adjustable.

Price : £60-£65.

Comments : Available with plainer stocks at lower price. Long reputation for very high power, solidly built. Rear sight could be better.



Feinwerkbau 124 Sport

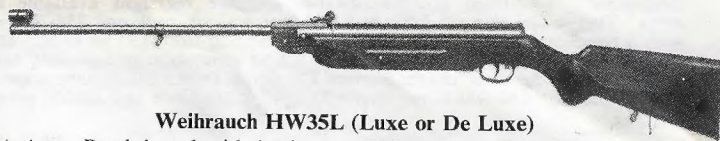
Action : Break-barrel. *Weight* : 6½ lb. *Length* : 43 in. *Barrel length* : 18½ in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Two-stage adjustable. *Sights* : Open, adjustable.

Price : £65-£75.

Comments : A newcomer, reputedly originally designed for the American market. Top power plus extra touches to pistol grip to enhance appearance. Rear sight could be better—surprising how this point overlooked on this and the BSF Bavaria 55, compared even with the cheaper BSA rifles. Cannot fail with the magic of the Feinwerkbau name.



Weihrauch HW35L (Luxe or De Luxe)

Action : Break-barrel with latch. *Weight* : 8½ lb. *Length* : 45½ in. *Barrel length* : 19½ in.

Calibre : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Semi-match adjustable.

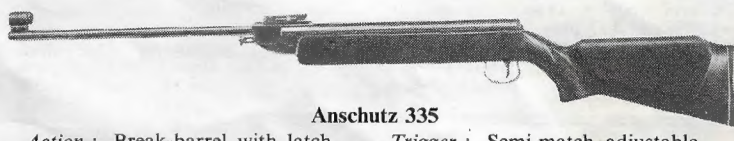
Sights : Open, front interchangeable element with limited element range, rear click stop two-way adjustable.

Price : £60-£70.

Comments : Powerful and heavy, very popular for sporting use, good quality. Also available as the HW35 with plainer stock. There is a special version, the HW35E (Export) which has a longer (22 in.) barrel and enhanced stock but which requires a Firearms Certificate, the extra barrel length seemingly increasing power above the legal limit. The barrel length is the key to which model is offered.

Section D — General target and sporting air rifles

General comment : This section is the largest and ranges from expensive excellent quality to the cheap and unashamedly aimed-at-the-general-market. Price generally indicates the quality, although not always; lack of any instructions or manual may indicate lack of spares service, meaning possible built-in obsolescence. Nonetheless, most of the cheapest rifles will have good accuracy and last quite a few years.



Anschutz 335

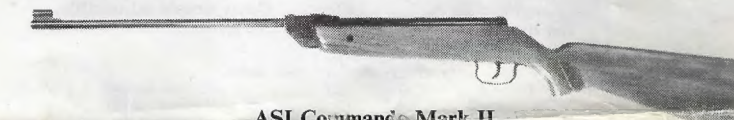
Action : Break-barrel with latch. *Weight* : 7 lb. *Length* : 43 in. *Barrel length* : 18½ in.

Calibre : .22.

Trigger : Semi-match adjustable. *Sights* : Open, rear simple two-way adjustable.

Price : £45-£50.

Comments : High powered, same action as the .177 target version but with heavier spring. Well made.



ASI Commando Mark II

Action : Break-barrel. *Weight* : 6½ lb. *Length* : 40½ in. *Barrel length* : 18 in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Two-stage non-adjustable. *Sights* : Open simple one-way adjustable.

Price : £20-£25.

Comments : Good Spanish quality action and barrel, best stock in range.



ASI Sniper

Action : Break-barrel. *Weight* : 5½ lb. *Length* : 40½ in. *Barrel length* : 17½ in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Two-stage non-adjustable. *Sights* : Open click stop two-way adjustable.

Price : £15-£20.

Comments : One of the best within its price range.



BSA Meteor Super

Action : Break-barrel. *Weight* : 6 lb. *Length* : 42 in. *Barrel length* : 18 in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Single stage adjustable. *Sights* : Open click stop two-way adjustable.

Price : £20-£25.

Comments : Like all the BSA products, top value for money, well made with a good stock with butt plate, and complete with target holder, targets, pellets and oil. Also available as the Meteor without the extras and with a plainer stock at £15.20.



BSF Bavaria S54

Action : Underlever cocking. *Weight* : 8 lb. *Length* : 46 in. *Barrel length* : 19 in.

Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Two-stage adjustable.

Sights : Foresight tunnel with limited range interchangeable elements, rear two-way click stop adjustable.

Price : £70-£80.

Comments : Simplified micro-adjustable aperture rearsight available as extra. This model also available as S54N with walnut stock and S54 Bayern with a handsome improved stock, at prices ranging from £95 to £105. The BSF range of air rifles and pistols has a sound reputation in Germany but, apart from the Bavaria 55 (see Section C), the various models have seldom been imported. The full range is now becoming available and should prove popular.



BSF Bavaria S70

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Two-stage adjustable.
Weight : 7 lb. **Length :** 44 in. **Sights :** Open simple two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 19 in. **Price :** £60-£65.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

Comments : The break-barrel equivalent of the S54. Also available as the S60 with plain stock, slightly lighter and shorter but identical performance, and the S60N with plain stock in walnut, at prices between £45 and £60.



BSF Bavaria 45

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 6 lb. **Length :** 42½ in. **Sights :** Open simple adjustable.
Barrel length : 19 in. **Price :** £35-£40.
Calibre : .177 only.

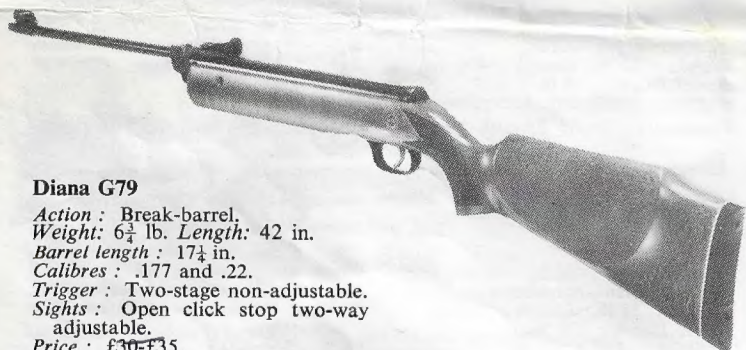
Comment : Appears to be medium power for beginners, other than youngsters.



Comet

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 5½ lb. **Length :** 39 in. **Sights :** Open simple adjustable.
Barrel length : 16½ in. **Price :** £10-£15.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

Comments : A very new introduction, not yet seen.



Diana G79

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Two-stage non-adjustable.
Weight : 6½ lb. **Length :** 42 in. **Sights :** Open click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 17½ in. **Price :** £30-£35.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

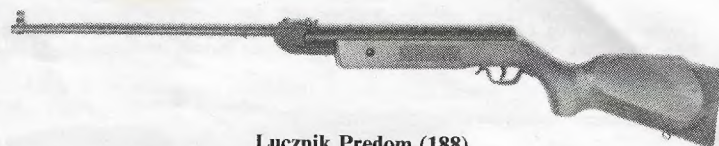
Comments : Well made and excellent value for money, quite powerful and with a good stock. The top of the Milbro stable. Simplified micro-adjustable aperture rearsight available as extra. The G71 is the same rifle with a better stock with deepened forearm and thicker ventilated butt plate at £35.40.



Diana G77

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Two-stage non-adjustable.
Weight : 6 lb. **Length :** 38½ in. **Sights :** Open click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 15½ in. **Price :** £20-£25.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

Comments : A lighter and lower-powered version of the G79.



Lucznik Predom (188)

Action : Break-barrel with latch. **Trigger :** Simple adjustable.
Weight : 7½ lb. **Length :** 44 in. **Sights :** Open simple adjustable.
Barrel length : 19½ in. **Price :** £18-£25.
Calibre : .177.

Comments : Quite solidly made with well-shaped stock.



Original 50

Action : Under-lever cocking. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable rear, front interchangeable element.
Weight : 7½ lb. **Length :** 44½ in. **Price :** £60-£65.
Barrel length : 19½ in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

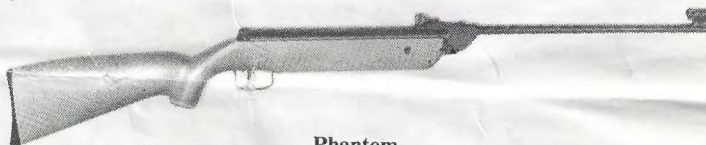
Trigger : Two-stage adjustable.
Comments : A quality under-lever, well established and the main competitor of the old Webley Mark III. In .22, a good sporting rifle, in .177 a good target rifle with micro-adjustable aperture rearsight available as extra. Unique ball-bearing trigger action for smooth release, also used on Model 35 following.



Original 35

Action : Break-barrel. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable rear, front interchangeable element.
Weight : 7½ lb. **Length :** 45 in. **Price :** £45-£50.
Barrel length : 18½ in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

Trigger : Two-stage adjustable.
Comments : Break-barrel version of the Model 50, with similar attributes. Also available in a 35 Super version with longer barrel, better stock, and slightly higher power.



Phantom

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple adjustable.
Weight : 6 lb. **Length :** 42 in. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 17½ in. **Price :** £20-£25.
Calibre : .22 only.

Comments : Another quite good Spanish product, nothing special but sound.



S.I.G. Hammerli 401

Action : Side-lever cocking. **Trigger :** Two-stage adjustable.
Weight : 7½ lb. **Length :** 44½ in. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 19 in. **Price :** £30-£35.
Calibres : .177 and .22.

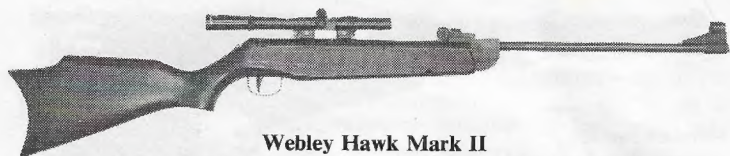
Comments : If the price I have is right, good value and serious opposition for the Osprey, although not quite as good. Same mechanism as the S.I.G. Hammerli 403 but without barrel sleeve and with inferior sights and stock.



Slavia 631

Action : Break-barrel with latch. **Calibre :** .177 only
Weight : 6½ lb. **Length :** 45½ in. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Barrel length : 19½ in. **Sights :** Open adjustable.

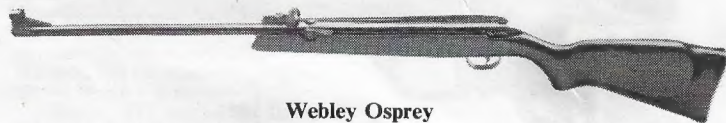
Comments : The Slavia range includes many models, the 618, 620, 622, 624, 630, and the top model illustrated, the 631. They are all break-barrel ranging from medium to the smallest and only intermittently available. Details and prices available are insufficient to use but the range is believed to be in the lower price brackets and for the general market. Spares may not be easily obtained.



Webley Hawk Mark II

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple adjustable.
Weight : 6½ lb. **Length :** 42¼ in. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 17¼ in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £20-£25.

Comments : Unique in the barrels being interchangeable, the cost with the two different calibre barrels being £30-£35. Carries on the tradition of the famous pre-war Webley Mark 2. Has the Webley synthetic piston ring for consistency and power. Aimed especially at the younger user and usual British value for money.



Webley Osprey

Action : Side-lever cocking. **Trigger :** Two-stage adjustable.
Weight : 7½ lb. **Length :** 43¼ in. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 18½ in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £40-£50.

Comments : The successor to the Webley Mark III. Has the Webley synthetic piston ring for consistency and power. A sound sporting rifle, considerable attention given to safety of lever action, again good value.



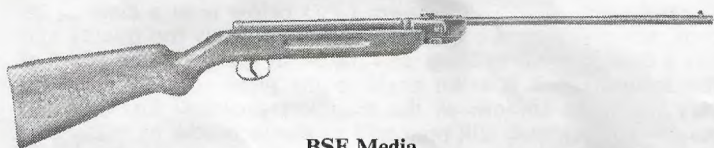
Weihrauch HW50 M/II

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 7 lb. **Length :** 43½ in. **Sights :** Open, adjustable.
Barrel length : 18½ in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £35-£40.

Comments : Soundly made, like all the Weihrauch range, otherwise not outstanding and dear by comparison, although the quality accounts for the price.

Section E — Air rifles made especially for youngsters

General comment : The rifles in this section have been made particularly for youngsters from nine years old up to around 14 or when they can handle a full-size rifle properly. They are generally as well built as their larger versions but with stocks of correct reduced dimensions and lighter and less power. They represent a sounder buy for the youngsters than other rifles.



BSF Media

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple adjustable.
Weight : 5½ lb. **Length :** 39¼ in. **Sights :** Open simple.
Barrel length : 18 in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £30-£40.

Comments : This and the next item are new to the British market and although expected to be sound BSF quality seem dear by comparison with other rifles in this section. Weight indicates probable good medium power.



BSF Junior

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple adjustable.
Weight : 4½ lb. **Length :** 37¼ in. **Sights :** Open simple.
Barrel length : 16 in. **Calibre :** .177 only. **Price :** £25-£30.

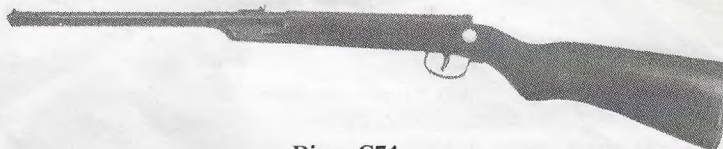
Comments : See foregoing.



Diana G76

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 4½ lb. **Length :** 37 in. **Sights :** Open simple.
Barrel length : 15¼ in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £15-£20.

Comments : This and the next item are the cheapest in this section, quite well made.



Diana G74

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 3 lb. **Length :** 33 in. **Sights :** Basic.
Barrel length : 14 in. **Calibre :** .177 only. **Price :** £10-£15.

Comments : A smooth bore for the very young, even below nine years old; quite low safe power. A real reminder of the pre-war "toy" air rifles, as then sold to adults!



Original 27

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Two-stage adjustable.
Weight : 6 lb. **Length :** 42 in. **Sights :** Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Barrel length : 17¼ in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £30-£35.

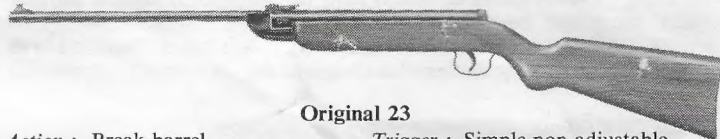
Comments : A slightly scaled-down version of the Original 35, with quite high power, a borderline rifle for the older youth. Good Original quality.



Original 25

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Two-stage non-adjustable.
Weight : 5 lb. **Length :** 38 in. **Sights :** Open, adjustable.
Barrel length : 15¼ in. **Calibres :** .177 and .22. **Price :** £20-£25.

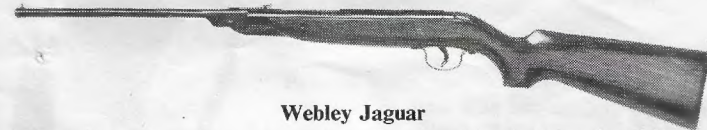
Comments : A 25D version with better adjustable trigger in .177 calibre only is available for serious target shooting by older youngsters.



Original 23

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 4½ lb. **Length :** 36 in. **Sights :** Open, adjustable.
Barrel length : 14 in. **Calibre :** .177 only. **Price :** £15-£20.

Comments : The real "Junior" of the Original range.



Webley Jaguar

Action : Break-barrel. **Trigger :** Simple non-adjustable.
Weight : 3½ lb. **Length :** 39 in. **Sights :** Open, adjustable.
Barrel length : 14 in. **Calibre :** .177 only. **Price :** £15-£20.

Comments : Very similar to the Diana G74 but with a rifled barrel. Sold as a package complete with target holder, targets, pellets and oil, first-class presentation to the youngster, and good value again.

Section F — Special air rifles

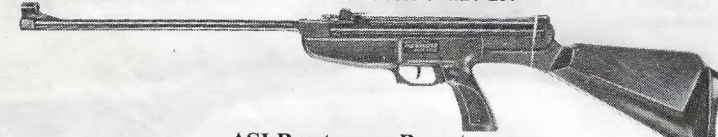
General comment: There is a bit of the "play at soldiers or cowboys and Indians" in most men and this is a sales point catered for by the rifles in this section. All are the same basic actions as the manufacturers' rifles in earlier sections but with military-type stocks instead of the normal stock or with an efficient repeating loading action added. They have a certain appeal, but cannot be used for competitive target shooting.



ASI Paratrooper

Action: Break-barrel.
Weight: 6½ lb. *Length:* 37 in.
Barrel length: 17½ in.
Calibres: .177 and .22.

Trigger: Two-stage adjustable.
Sights: Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Price: £20-25.



ASI Paratrooper Repeater

Price: £30-£35.

All as above but with addition of efficient automatic loading device.



ASI Sniper Repeater

Price: £30-£35.

All as the ASI Sniper in Section D but with the same automatic loading device. Could have advantages in the field on a very cold fumbling-type day.



S.I.G. Hammerli 420

Action: Side-lever cocking. *Price:* £30-£40.

All as the S.I.G. Hammerli Model 401 in Section D but with different stock. A newcomer to the "military-look" range.

AIR PISTOLS

Section G — Recoilless air pistols

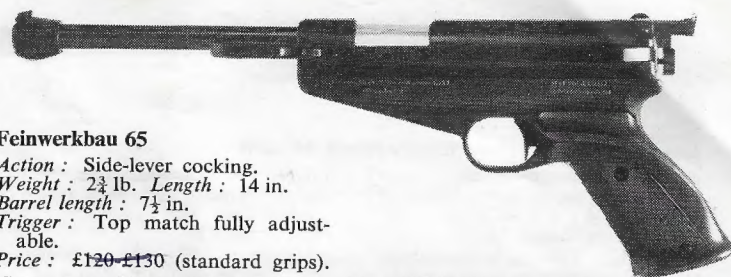
General comment: The same comments apply as to the recoilless air rifles, the pistol shooter particularly welcoming the advantages of no "kick". Only open sights are allowed for air pistol target shooting so all have open sights but with full micro-adjustment of the rearsight. Special grips shaped to the hand can also help the shooter and these are available as extra options for all except the Original 6, which also has simpler rearsight adjustment, as might be expected from the price. Superb pistols to shoot. All are .177 calibre only, and left-hand versions are available, except again for the Original 6.



Walther LP3

Action: Break-barrel with latch to load, cocking by trigger guard.
Weight: 3 lb. *Length:* 13½ in.
Barrel length: 9½ in.
Trigger: Match fully adjustable.
Price: £120-£130.

Comments: Walther quality is well established as superb. This pistol works like the Walther LGR rifle on the single-stroke pump-up principle but the cylinder and piston are in the grip.



Feinwerkbau 65

Action: Side-lever cocking.
Weight: 2½ lb. *Length:* 14 in.
Barrel length: 7½ in.
Trigger: Top match fully adjustable.

Price: £120-£130 (standard grips).

Comments: Same action as Feinwerkbau 300S rifle.

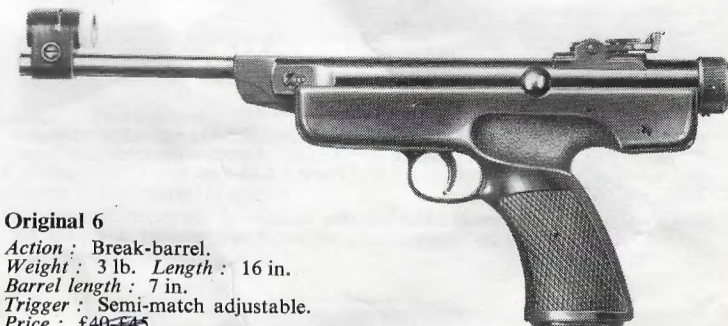


Original 10

Action: Break-barrel.
Weight: 3½ lb. *Length:* 19½ in.
Barrel length: 7 in.
Trigger: Top match fully adjustable.

Price: £100-£110 (standard grips).

Comments: Case provided in price. Front sight blade adjustable for width by unique built-in method. Ultra-modern styling.



Original 6

Action: Break-barrel.
Weight: 3 lb. *Length:* 16 in.
Barrel length: 7 in.
Trigger: Semi-match adjustable.
Price: £40-£45.

Comments: Simpler sights and trigger than other recoilless and less extras available. Exceptional value, the top starter for the serious pistol shooter, at the price.

All the remaining pistols are classified as recoiling.

Section H — Special class air pistol

General comment: The Walther LP53 below is in a class of its own, not only on price grounds. It is completely top quality and has a conventional cylinder and piston in the grip; the effect of this is that recoil is at an angle to the pistol and the action is very nearly as smooth as the recoilless pistols. For personal reasons of feel, etc., still preferred to the recoilless by many top shooters.



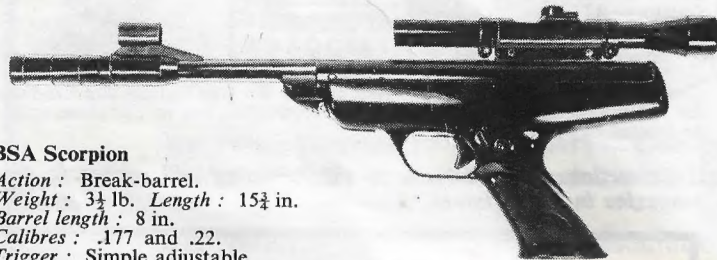
Walther LP53

Action: Break-barrel.
Weight: 2½ lb. *Length:* 12½ in.
Barrel length: 9½ in. but last 1½ in. or so not rifled for insertion of cocking-aid.
Trigger: Simple non-adjustable.
Sights: Open, adjustable two ways.
Price: £60-£70.

Comments: Rearsight has interchangeable blades. Barrel weight available as extra.

Section I — General air pistols, target and sporting

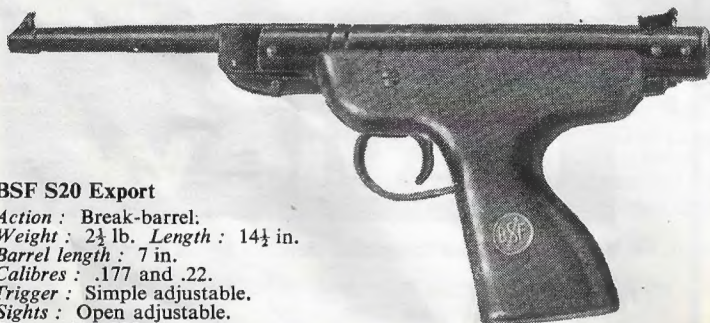
General comments : Only the Scorpion and the Webley Premier are known to have enough power for sporting use on vermin, the other pistols generally are not powerful enough, as far as is known at present. All are, however, suitable for fun "plinking" and most make good target shooting trainers.



BSA Scorpion

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 3½ lb. **Length :** 15½ in.
Barrel length : 8 in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Price : £20-£25.

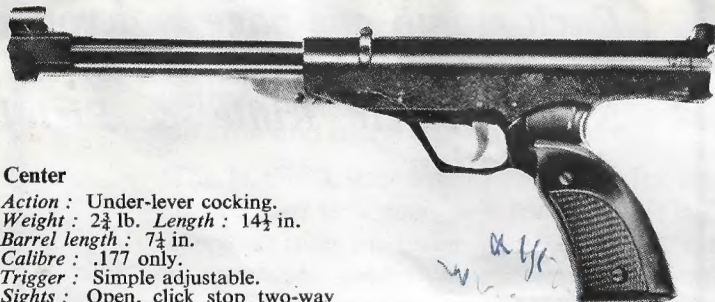
Comments : An exceptionally powerful pistol, excellent value for sporting and target use, with considerable recoil. The only pistol with its own special 'scope.



BSF S20 Export

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2½ lb. **Length :** 14½ in.
Barrel length : 7 in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open adjustable.
Price : £30-£35.

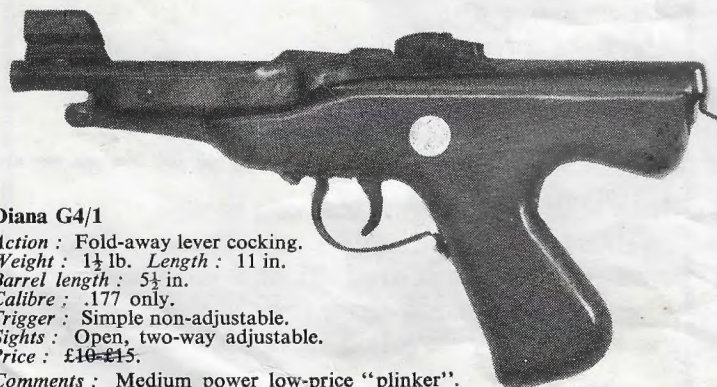
Comments : Also available as the BSF S20 Match Export with improved thumb-grip stock and quality micro-adjustable rear sight, as serious target pistol, at £40-£45. Neither version yet seen, but good quality expected.



Center

Action : Under-lever cocking.
Weight : 2½ lb. **Length :** 14½ in.
Barrel length : 7½ in.
Calibre : .177 only.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Price : £20-£25.

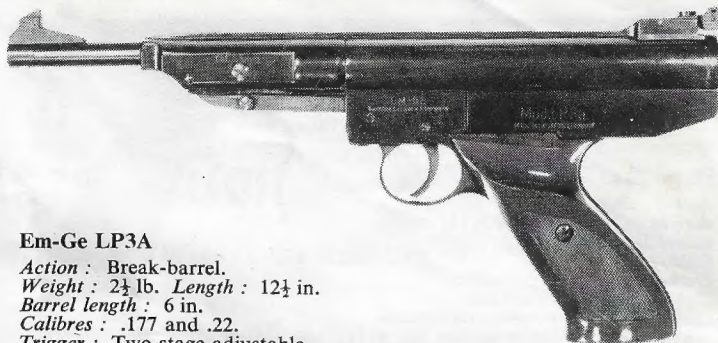
Comments : A good pistol, well presented, well made, with unique adjustable angle of grip. Efficient loading tap sealing arrangement.



Diana G4/1

Action : Fold-away lever cocking.
Weight : 1½ lb. **Length :** 11 in.
Barrel length : 5½ in.
Calibre : .177 only.
Trigger : Simple non-adjustable.
Sights : Open, two-way adjustable.
Price : £10-£15.

Comments : Medium power low-price "plinker".



Em-Ge LP3A

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2½ lb. **Length :** 12½ in.
Barrel length : 6 in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.
Trigger : Two-stage adjustable.
Sights : Open, two-way adjustable.
Price : £20-£25.

Comments : A quite well-made pistol, with nylon washers for consistency; popular with average target shooters.



Lucznik Predom (170)

Action : Break-barrel loading, cocking by trigger guard.
Weight : 2½ lb. **Length :** 12½ in.
Barrel length : 6 in. but last 1 in. or so not rifled.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, adjustable.
Calibre : .177 only.
Price : £25-£30.

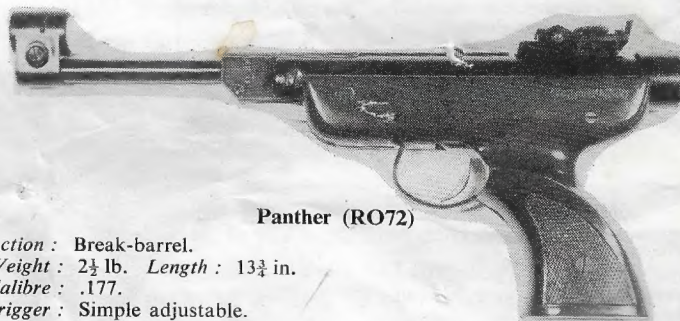
Comments : Action and appearance virtually identical with the Walther LP53. Nowhere near the Walther quality but cashes in on the Walther system for those who do not want to spend the sum the Walther costs.



Original 5

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2½ lb. **Length :** 16 in.
Barrel length : 7 in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.
Trigger : Two-stage adjustable.
Sights : Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Price : £25-£30.

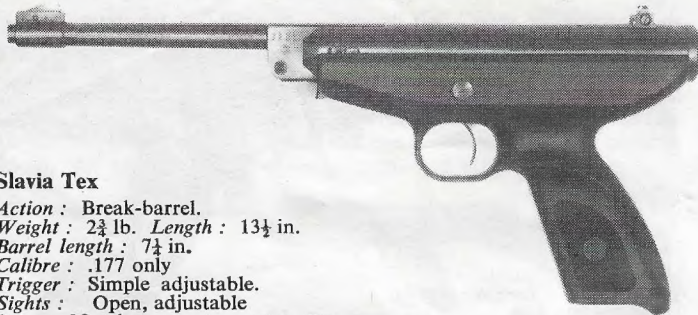
Comments : Quite high powered, soundly constructed.



Panther (RO72)

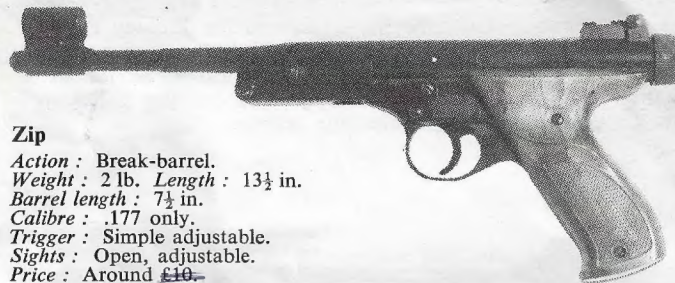
Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2½ lb. **Length :** 13½ in.
Calibre : .177.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, click stop two-way adjustable.
Price : £10-£15.

Comments : Quite well made, rear sight has alternative-notch blade.



Slavia Tex

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2½ lb. Length : 13½ in.
Barrel length : 7½ in.
Calibre : .177 only
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, adjustable
Price : Not known—see comments under Slavia rifles in Section D.



Zip

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2 lb. Length : 13½ in.
Barrel length : 7½ in.
Calibre : .177 only.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, adjustable.
Price : Around £10.

Comments : Reasonable power. Astonishing how the Italians can produce for the price. Mainly castings and non-repairable, but at the price could be treated as "throw-away".

Corrections and additions to the foregoing will appear in the magazine in future issues.



Webley Premier Mark II

Action : Unique barrel-cocking.
Weight : 2½ lb. Length : 8½ in.
Barrel length : 6½ in.
Calibres : .177 and .22.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, adjustable.
Price : £25-£30.

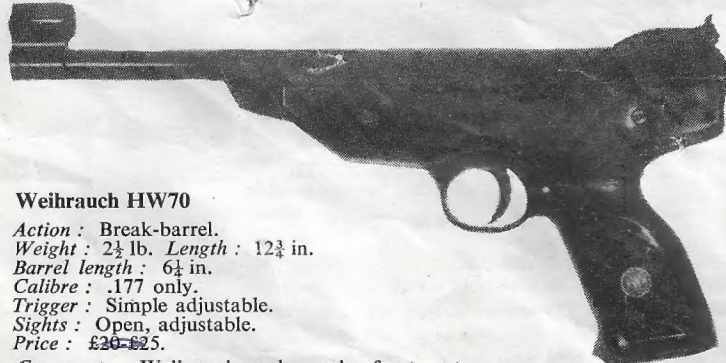
Comments : The longest-made and best-known pistol ever; powerful, popular around the world. Solidly made and unrivalled.



Webley Junior Mark II

Action : As Premier.
Weight : 1½ lb. Length : 8 in.
Barrel length : 6½ in.
Calibre : .177 only.
Trigger : Simple non-adjustable.
Sights : Open, adjustable.
Price : £15-£20.

Comments : The lower-powered and simpler little brother of the Premier, for younger shooters especially. Recently improved by adding stirrup barrel catch as on Premier.



Weihrauch HW70

Action : Break-barrel.
Weight : 2½ lb. Length : 12½ in.
Barrel length : 6½ in.
Calibre : .177 only.
Trigger : Simple adjustable.
Sights : Open, adjustable.
Price : £20-£25.

Comments : Well made and popular for target use.

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